Increase in accidents involving helicopters

444. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in recent times accidents of helicopters are increasing every year;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to stop such incidents;

(c) whether the private aviation companies are neglecting the basic rules and regulations, the neglects of which caused the severe accidents;

(d) if so, the action taken by Government against them; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to monitor all private aviation companies' helicopters from time to time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. As compared to three accidents in the year 2007 only two accidents each were reported in the years 2008 and 2009 (till date).

(b) Safety recommendations emanating from investigation of incidents are followed up for implementation with the concerned agencies for preventing recurrence of such incidents in future. To avoid air accidents, various accident prevention programmes have been initiated by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which include safety audits, surveillance inspections, dissemination of safety information, issue of Air Safety Circular/ Civil Aviation Requirements, etc.

(c) to (e) The compliance of the Basic Rules and Regulations of the Private Aviation Companies are checked during safety audit/ surveillance inspection. Action is always taken against the defaulters if any deviation is observed during such inspections.

Proposals from Andhra Pradesh Government

445. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals received in the Ministry from Andhra Pradesh Government during the last two years;

(b) the decision/action taken on each of those proposals;

(c) whether any of these proposals are pending with the Ministry; if so, the reasons for their pendency; and

(d) by when, these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) On the request of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Airports Authority of India (AAI) had conducted Feasibility Study of 8 sites identified by the State Government, namely, Nellore, Ongole, Tadepalligudem, Nizamabad, Bobbili, Kurnul, Ramagundam and Kothagudem. The Feasibility Reports were forwarded to the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 3.6.2008 for further action.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Violation on safety norms by private airlines

446. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are reports of private airlines violating the safety norms;

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported;

(c) whether Government is aware of the reports that a private aircraft took off from an unlit airstrip at Dumka in Jharkhand;

(d) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted into this incident; and

(e) if so, the details of the report along with the action taken on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One case was reported in the year 2009.

(c) Yes, Sir. On 19.10.2009, C - 525 aircraft VT - PSB of M/s Orbit Aviation took off after sunset from Dumka Airstrip, which is an uncontrolled airfield in the twilight period.

(d) and (e) Investigation revealed that the aircraft took off after sunset, in violation of safety guidelines and Visual Flight Rules. Based on investigation both the pilots were grounded for 15 days and were given warning to not to repeat such lapses.

Construction of new airports

447. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new airports under construction in the country;

(b) the estimated cost of each of the airports and status of their constructions;

(c) the methodology adopted in financing the projects and their tender procedure;

(d) the number of airports proposed to be approved in private sector, their location and cost involved in each case; and

(e) the estimated time of completion of each of the airports under construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) One new Greenfield airport namely, Pakyong in Sikkim is under construction by Airports Authority of India (AAI) with schedule date of completion as January 2012. The estimated project cost is Rs.309 crores. The project is to be funded from the Government of India's fund (90%) and internal resources of AAI (10%) and executed by following open tender procedure.